

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #23 - Side A

Subject: Velfa Byerley Richardson

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: May 8, 1973

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: No

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen interviewing Velfa Richardson at her home in Burns, Oregon, on May 8, 1973. Mrs. Richardson is to be the Queen Mother for the annual Harney County Pioneer Association, Pioneer Day in June. ...

VELFA BYERLEY RICHARDSON: Now both my mother and my dad's folks came here in early years.

PAULINE: I've heard the Byerley name, and I'm sure I've heard the Barnes name too.

VELFA: Oh, I'm sure you have.

PAULINE: Do you know about what year it was when ---

VELFA: Yes, I know, I've got it all down here.

PAULINE: Okay.

VELFA: I've got it all down here.

PAULINE: All right.

VELFA: I can read off some of this.

PAULINE: Okay, why don't you.

VELFA: My mother's family, Joseph T. and Mary Elizabeth Barnes came to Harney County by wagon train in 1885 from Newton County, Arkansas. There were 62 people in the train. Ella, the

oldest daughter, walked driving the cattle. They settled three miles from the Island Ranch. Granddad made a log house for their home. My father's family moved to Harney County first in 1883, and left and went back to the Willamette Valley, returned in 1884, located in a home on the banks of the Silvies River, where the Willa-Ray Dairy was. My mother, Nannie Barnes, married Martin A. Byerley in Burns in 1891. My brother, Joseph ... was born October 10th, 1892. I was born in the log house of my grandparents July 12th, 1894. Now did you want me to read ---

PAULINE: That sounds real good, why don't you? Keep up the good work. That sounds good.

VELFA: My first school was a one-room schoolhouse, the Boone Island District. My first reader given me by my first teacher, Rose Venator, sister of Alphaena Venator, which I have dated October 26, 1899. My last teacher in the Boone Island District was G. O. Hendricks.

Then we moved to Burns, lived in a rented house, rented from Captain A. L. Gowan. It was on a lot where the Smyth's Grocery Store is now. My teacher that year in Burns was Curtis Bartlett.

In the late autumn of 1907, my brother and I went to Newport by wagon with my father's parents. Also, their two sons, Dell and Loren, daughter Clara, and a neighbor who came to work in the hay fields for Ira Stubblefield who contracted hay for Bill Hanley. Etta Stubblefield was their oldest daughter.

My brother and I were at Newport and Dallas, Oregon with our dad's parents two years, then returned to Drewsey, Harney County. I lived there 30 years.

Henry L. Richardson and I were married in Burns September 27th, 1923. Our daughter Mary Anna (Culp) was born in Burns August 10th, 1925. Dennis Henry was born February 19, 1928. We have four grandchildren living: Mary Ann Walker, Arron D. Richardson, Norma Williams, Steven Earl Culp. And two great-grandchildren, Jeffrey Walker, and Janie Jo Walker.

When I was 18 years old I joined the Minerva Rebekah Lodge, #112 and was a member 57 years. I attended Grand Lodge once in Eugene, and once in Corvallis. Served as noble grand four

terms. I am a charter member of the VFW Auxiliary, Burns-Hines Post #1328. I worked in the shipping department of Hines Sawmill 18 years. Retired in July 1962.

I joined the Mother Church of Christ's Scientists, June 1932. Joined the Christian Science Society of Burns July 12, 1942. Have been an active member since, serving as Sunday School Superintendent and Reader. I am Second Reader now. I will be going to the annual meeting of the Mother Church in Boston, Massachusetts on June 2, return on June 8, on a United Airline plane chartered for Christian Scientists. Then return to Burns on a plane to attend the Harney County Pioneer Day as Queen Mother.

PAULINE: That's beautiful, that's lovely.

VELFA: Now did that record or not?

PAULINE: Yeah, that recorded. Would you like to hear it?

VELFA: ... just full of stuff, and this book was on top of it here. Clean out the house, throwing things away.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes.

VELFA: Well I salvaged it, so I --- I was only 4 years old when I started to school. My brother wouldn't go to school without me. But they, the teacher spelled my name wrong. October 26, 1899, I drew a picture of Joe Cronin. I can draw just that well today. (Laughter) But see how I wore it out? Gee, I must have did a lot of reading. I've just worn that old --- completely out. Isn't that the limit?

PAULINE: That is very precious.

VELFA: But I really cherish that book. Oh, I just wore it completely out I guess.

PAULINE: Well I don't, Ida Whiting --- not Ida Whiting, but Ida Cross was telling me that you would go to school, and the next year when you went back you'd start at the beginning of the book and work up. You know of course you went through it faster each time. But I can see where a book would get a lot of use if this is what you did.

VELFA: Oh yes.

PAULINE: If every year you started at the beginning and go through again. Tell me a little bit more about this Boone Island. Just where was that?

VELFA: Well --- where is that? It's 3 miles to the Island Ranch, 3 miles from the Island Ranch.

PAULINE: Three miles.

VELFA: I was, just got to thinking, well ---

PAULINE: This is the new one, I hadn't had anyone referred to ---

VELFA: I gave that news to somebody that was writing a school history, but I don't think she fell for it. She thought I didn't know what I was talking about.

PAULINE: Well I'm sure that you do. But there is so many places that are, you know, just no longer, that people no longer know about.

VELFA: Well just ... dinner, sit down here and I wrote families that lived in the Boone Island District when I lived there. There was a Marrs family. Now Ellen Parsons was, this was her uncle, Mannie Marrs. That isn't recording, is it?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

VELFA: Well I admired Mannie Marrs, I thought he was the most wonderful man in all of our, of all of our neighbors. But he was considered one of the best liars in Harney County, but I just loved him. Then there was a Laura Marrs Weeks, a sister of Mannie Marrs, she lived there. And I can't think of her daughter's name. Then there was the Jim Bunyard family, and he had Jess Bunyard and Lorena Bunyard, used to be Lorena Baker, and Jim Bunyard. Then there was a McGee family.

PAULINE: Now this would be Lelah's family.

VELFA: Lelah McGee's family. Mrs. McGee, they moved here, her husband was a doctor, and he was quite ill, they moved here. They were on their way to the Willamette Valley, and they got this far and he was so ill so they just stayed here. And he passed away, he didn't live too long. And then

Mrs. McGee raised her family. There was Lelah, and Claude, and Garlin, Ethel, and to save me I can't think of the oldest boy's name, and I know him just as well as I know my own family. But he was quite active in county work.

Then there was a George Porter family, and Margaret Reed was a Porter.

PAULINE: Yeah, now I talked to Margaret, oh years ago, and she told me quite a bit about ---

VELFA: There was another, girls, and then there was a George Porter. Let's me see, three or four years ago when I was down to Corvallis, I went with Agnes Stallard to a retired teacher's meeting, and I met George Porter's wife, she was a teacher, retired teacher. And she was telling me about her first school up here. She boarded with Mrs., oh what's her name, at Harney, an old pioneer. Bower's, Mrs. Bower. She said she never could have finished that school, if it hadn't been for Mrs. Bower's mothering her. Then there was a James Buchanan family, now he was my Grand-mother Barnes' brother, and his wife's name was Martha. She was Granddad Barnes' sister. And they had the three children, John, James, and Ada.

Then there was a Grout family, there was John and Frank Grout, children. And they never had any boys, and they wanted to adopt me. And John at that time, I think they were each about 4 years old, we had quite a case on each other. I'll have to go on and tell you about how funny this was. Then years after that, when I was living on my homestead, and my grandparents were living with me at that time, Granddad would come to Burns. And he met this young man, he used to come to Burns in his Model-T, and he met this young man, stopped to talk to him, it was Johnny Grout. Johnny Grout says, "Where's Velfa?" He says, "I'm back in this country looking her up." He turned around, Granddad took him back to the ranch, and he come and visited us awhile.

Then there was a Creasman family, I imagine you remember them.

PAULINE: I heard that name, yes.

VELFA: And there was John Creasman, Edith Creasman, and Walla Creasman. And then there was

Ora Hill; they lived right near Granddad and Grandma. And Mrs. Borland was his housekeeper, and she had three children, Andrew, Julia and George Greeley. Oh, she was a wonderful woman. Every child in the whole neighborhood just loved her. And every time we went to see her she made taffy. One time Bertha Brenton and my brother and I, and I don't know how many other kids, went to Mrs. Borland's. Well, she didn't make any taffy that day, I guess she was tired. So, we went home, and Bertha was telling Grandma, well I'm so sorry for Mrs. Borland she hasn't any more syrup or sugar. She took it for granted that she didn't have any syrup or sugar, or she would have made the candy for us. The next day Mrs. Borland, she walked the three miles; she made candy and walked the three miles to bring us children some candy.

PAULINE: She couldn't let you down.

VELFA: She couldn't let us down. Then there was Tex Martin and Aunt Ella, and there was Nita, and Joe, and Edna Fine from her first marriage. And then she had the two children Edmund Martin and Nora Martin. Then there was a George Finnemore, he was a bachelor that lived in the neighborhood. And then there was Martha Ash and Beatrice, Bevis and Elmer.

And Homer Mace, and his wife was Nellie, she was Nellie Barnes. She was a cousin of my mother's. And then Vella and Chester. So that is all the families that I can ---

PAULINE: That's quite a community.

VELFA: But that was a big community.

PAULINE: That was a lot of people.

VELFA: And at the Island Ranch, at that time, they hired about 30 men, regular men ... And my grandmother was our religious leader in all that community. She would hold, there wasn't church services for like Sunday School. And many times I have seen 20 and 25 men from the Island Ranch there to Grandma's Sunday School. PAULINE: That's interesting.

VELFA: And that church would be full, not church, but ...

PAULINE: It was at the meeting.

VELFA: And on Christmas, that was a grand occasion at that schoolhouse. There would be so many there would be hardly standing room for them. And Granddad Barnes was always Santa Claus. And of course they made all their decorations, they strung popcorn, and that was one time that they could get oranges or apples, it would be at Christmas time. But I can remember what a grand occasion that was at Christmas time at the schoolhouse.

PAULINE: This is something that people today just don't realize, you know, we think oranges, and apples, and bananas are so common, and it is so hard to think of them as being such a special treat. Was your husband the man that they called Boss, was his name Boss?

VELFA: No.

PAULINE: This was a different ---

VELFA: His name was Henry Lon, he was, Lon Richardson was his uncle.

PAULINE: Well I had heard that name, and I just wanted to know---

VELFA: Boss Richardson was a different family, not related to us.

PAULINE: Not related at all.

VELFA: Just a friend. He was an old ... Now my Granddad Barnes was a freighter, he freighted stuff, groceries into Burns. And then Grandma Barnes, as far back as I can remember, she used to milk about 12 cows, and she made butter and sold to Brown's Store up here. And I have the butter molds down there in the basement, and those butter paddles that she used. But ---

PAULINE: Where did your Granddad usually freight from? Did he go to Ontario, or Winnemucca, or ---

VELFA: He went to Ontario and Huntington. Huntington was the leading place then. I went with them on one trip when, I guess I was 7. Grandma had to go along, and she drove the old hack. And she drove two old mares, a buckskin and a chestnut sorrel, Polly and Minnie. I went with her. She

was going to meet her mother that was coming from Arkansas to live with them. And then Granddad had his six-horse team; I imagine he had two wagons as usual.

But that was the first time I can remember of being out of Harney Valley. And when we went up over the hill there at Buchanan, I thought we were going into a new world. (Laughter)

PAULINE: I can understand your feeling.

VELFA: And of course I always thought that, I didn't realize it then, but I think that Grandma favored me, and that's why they took me on this trip. I can remember when we got into Huntington that night; oh I was hungry because they'd driven a long ways. And Granddad rushed to the first store he could, and he got a can of peaches and some crackers. They fed me first before they could cook.

But then the next day they went to this house where the people were keeping Grandma Buchanan. Thurzy Jane Buchanan, my grandmother's mother. And then let's see, five, six years ago I went with my granddaughter and her husband from Ontario to Baker. We went to Huntington, I recognized that old house standing there, just like --- "Oh go slow, I want to see that house again." I recognized that house, it was a big two-story house where we had stayed over a few days, and then we picked up Grandma Buchanan and came back.

And another instance I remember on that trip on coming back --- of course we just slept on the ground, you know, we just rolled out our beds and slept on the ground. And were camped not far from that Warm Springs, about 16 miles this side of Vale, they kept travel. And then during the night the stage went by, the mail stage, and I heard a child crying, it woke me up. And I said, "Grandma, that's Bevis Ash crying." "Oh," she says, "it can't be, go back to sleep honey." When we got to Burns, it was Bevis Ash, and Bertha, and her sister Greta were coming from the Catholic School in Baker. And it was going on the way back to Burns to stay with my mother.

PAULINE: You recognized the ---

VELFA: I recognized his voice. Well he lived with us, you know, and I recognized him crying.

PAULINE: Sometimes children have more on the ball than parents give them credit for.

VELFA: Yes.

PAULINE: Oh, let's see, there was another question I was going to ask you too. What was it? Now Curtis Bartlett, he's the, he was

VELFA: Later, was Dr. Bartlett, was married to Maude Clark.

PAULINE: Uh huh, from out at Drewsey. Yeah.

VELFA: Uh huh, that was his first marriage. Then he married Bessie Brown's daughter, the second marriage, Ethel Brown.

PAULINE: Do you remember when you lived out here in the Boone Island District? Do you remember coming into Burns, and how you would come?

VELFA: Oh, yes.

PAULINE: Would you come over Wright's Point, or around?

VELFA: We didn't go over Wright's Point, we were this side.

PAULINE: You didn't. This side of it.

VELFA: Well the road going into our district, just about where the railroad is, goes down that ...

PAULINE: Okay, now I've got it. I had you on the wrong side of the Island.

VELFA: Uh huh. It would have gone right; it's this side of the Island Ranch. It would have gone right, the railroad, right about where Granddad's place was. I went down there about six years ago, took Bertha down there to see that old log house. And they told me that it burned down. I knew about where it was, I wanted to take a picture of it, but it had burned down. It was quite a large house, well built.

PAULINE: A lot of the old landmarks like that are disappearing. Did it take quite awhile to come

into Burns? Did you plan on a day?

VELFA: Well ---

PAULINE: Or an overnight trip to come to Burns?

VELFA: It was, no, it was 12 miles. Now my mother, we had a little race mare and we drove her to our cart, and she really could trot. And it didn't take too long to get in here. And then Granddad he had a hack, a double-seated hack like we used to have. So I don't know just how much time, but it wasn't too long.

PAULINE: Did you come into Burns for Fourth of July celebrations?

VELFA: Oh yeah, let me tell you about this celebration we'd come into. There was the hack, and we had the two-seated hack. And Jim Bunyard, he was real good to the rest of the family, and so Granddad said well he could come and drive the hack and bring us children in. So there was Nita Fine, and Joe Fine, and Edna Dot Fine and my brother and I, we came to town. We were all dressed up in our white dresses with ruffles and big sashes around. Dot had a blue sash, and I had a big red sash around my waist. So, we come to Burns for the Fourth of July, and it turned real cold.

Of course we drank all the ice-cold lemonade we could. And I don't think they had, they may have had some homemade ice cream to sell, but anyway it got so cold. And it snowed about three inches that day. And when we got home, we were just chilled through and through. I'll never forget that celebration.

PAULINE: Oh that --- well it does that just every so many years, the Fourth of July.

VELFA: Yes it does. Oh, this was one of the years.

PAULINE: Do you remember the first car you ever rode in?

VELFA: Oh yes. I ever rode in?

PAULINE: Or that you ever saw.

VELFA: The first car I ever saw belonged to Claude McGee's brother. It was a, what make was that,

I believe it was a Buick. I can remember it. It had no top on it, just the two seats. And I think it was one of those cars with the stick drive, they had the stick drive in place of the wheel. I remember seeing that, and I remember passing him down here. My mother and I, my brother, we were down there on the Hanley Lane. That was the, really a wonderful sight, that was the first car I remember seeing. I was quite small; I don't know just what year it was. But it was during the time that we would go back and forth in our cart to Burns, out to the ranch.

PAULINE: You don't remember the first time you went for a ride in a car?

VELFA: Let me see.

PAULINE: I get some interesting answers to these questions.

VELFA: I just can't remember the first car. But I can tell you about one trip we made, that was in 1913. We didn't have a car at that time. Now my mother's husband, Mr. Stallard, never did drive a car, never bought a car.

But it was the time that Bertha Hossman's mother passed away in Seattle. We had telephones, so they telephoned and said that she had passed on. Well, Aunt Ella lived in Burns, so she got a car, hired a car from McGowan's here in Burns, Burns Garage. And Jimmy Richardson was the driver. It didn't have any top, it had the two seats. And I can see --- the front seat was narrow, much narrower than the back seat. Well Grandma, and Mama, and Aunt Ella sat in the back seat. And I sat in the front seat on Granddad's lap. And Jimmy Richardson was driving; he was 16 years old then. And I remember this when we were between Vale and Ontario, the dust was just hub deep and the ruts, you couldn't see the ruts. Of course cars didn't go very fast in those days. But he hit a rut and I landed out on the side of the road, on my head, in the dust. Well that boy was really scared to death, he was afraid I was hurt. I wasn't hurt, but I sure was dirty. And of course I had long, long hair hanging down then. But I can remember that car.

Now whether that was the first car I ever rode in, I don't know, it may have been.

PAULINE: I've asked people, you know, whether they liked to ride in the cars or not. And almost everyone tells me, yeah, they thought it was wonderful, a wonderful experience. But I've had one person tell me, no sir, they were scared to death, they didn't like it at all. So I've been asking people because it is so hard for --- well I can sort of imagine because I've heard my folks and grandparents talk about the older days. But for my kids to think of not being able to just jump in the car and go. Or of the kind of cars that first came out, you know, it is really a mind-boggling thing. So I've asked people this.

Well is there anything else that you think of --- You were, when you were out in Drewsey you were ranching?

VELFA: Yes. We lived at the Stallard Stage Station. We run the Stallard Stage Station.

PAULINE: Well that, I knew that too.

VELFA: Yes. And I was official dishwasher there from the time I was 11 until I left there 30 years afterwards again. I'd stand up there and wash dishes for two or three hours at a time. And besides the family, there was the two Stallard boys, and my brother, and always a hired man.

And then we kept the Kellogg's Station for him. We had a bunkhouse and we fed their drivers. The drivers stayed over there too. So we had a table that sat 14 places at the table. And that table was usually always full, every meal. And we also fed the passengers, the passengers and the freighters that stopped there. So every day it was bake about 12 loaves of bread, besides two or three big pans of biscuits of a morning. And two big loaf cakes, and about 10 or 12 pies. And that was an every day occurrence.

PAULINE: Oh, my goodness.

VELFA: To show you --- And many days we would serve 30 people. So we did a little work. Looking back over the years later, we wondered how in the world did we do all that hard work. But we did it.

PAULINE: Well it's hard to imagine now. And without, you know, pumping water and all that --- I would never make it. I would never make it through the first week.

VELFA: So ---

PAULINE: Although sometimes I wonder how good a condition we'll be in when we get this age. Because now my grandmother, you know, just up until the last few years has just been active, and you know ---

VELFA: I'll have to tell you this. My, when my grandparents lived there in a little house near where we lived, he had been to Burns, he had a little Model-T car, and he had been to Burns. He come back and he said, "Well I'll have to tell this to you." He said, "When I was in Burns," he said, "there was one of those salesmen, they call them drummers in those days, and he just thought that he was it." So we were standing there by the Burns Hotel and he stood up and he put his thumbs in his suspenders like this, and he said, "Well now Mr. Barnes, what do they do with these broken down buckaroos and these sheepherders when they aren't able to work anymore?" "Well," he says, "I'll tell you partner what we do with them. Of course we bring them to town, we give them a bath and then we buy some store boughten clothes and put on them, and put a tie on them, and we make drummers out of them." (Laughter)

I can remember Granddad telling that so many times, and the tears would just roll. But he actually pulled that. Of course Granddad had lots of yarns to tell. But I thought that was too good to forget.

PAULINE: That was --- yes.

VELFA: That was too good to forget. And Granddad was quite a politician. He was called a hard-shelled Democrat. Grandma always said, "Well I was raised a Republican, but I always vote the way Daddy wants me to." (Laughter) And Granddad was with a group of men when they moved the courthouse records from Harney City to Burns.

PAULINE: Oh, he helped them --- with that.

VELFA: He helped with that. He was very active.

WOMAN: They kind of stole them, didn't they?

PAULINE: Yeah, I think they --- I've always heard at least that there was a little bit of a ---

VELFA: He was road master here for, I don't know how many years.

PAULINE: Oh, I didn't know that.

VELFA: Years, and years, and years he was road master. I used to go out with them. Well he went all over the county. I was with them at one time when we went up to Silvies Valley. And then when they went out to Silver Creek I was with them. And Grandma would cook for the men.

And he only had a fourth grade education, but he could figure dirt, and figure rock right along with Johnny --- Edwin Johnson's father, which was a civil engineer. And he would say, "Well Joe, how do you do it?" "Oh," he says, "just comes easy to me."

PAULINE: Well this was with so many people. Then the ... education didn't really mean, can't equate it with modern times. Because they learned more sometimes in a year's time than, through practical experience.

VELFA: And there is another instance I want to tell you about. My Granddad Byerley, his name was Jeff, he had racehorses. And Grover Jameson told me this. He asked me, he said, "What did Jeff do, has he still got a picture of that race horse of his, Big Ben?" It was a big chestnut sorrel racehorse. I said, "Yes, they keep that picture hanging right over the door in their living room."

"Well," he said, "you know one day we were having a race, a horse race right through Main Street." Jeff drove into town with his team. So I saw him coming, and I run and met him and told him, "Jeff we're having a race, hurry up and get in it." So he pulled the harness off of one of the horses, got in the horse race, and won the race. He said, "I've laughed about that hundreds of times since." If I could have --- I don't know who ever got that picture; I'd like to have gotten it, got a copy

of it for Grover, because he wanted a picture of it.

PAULINE: Well horse racing was quite a sport.

VELFA: Yes, it was. I can remember when I was a kid I would get so excited coming to the Harney County Fairs, watching the horse races.

PAULINE: Well some of the people out at Drewsey told me too, the horse races they had out there. I guess they would have a horse race under any excuse. I mean if someone had a horse they thought could beat another one, why they had a race.

VELFA: Yeah.

PAULINE: And it really sounded exciting when they tell about it. Well is there anything else that you remember right offhand?

VELFA: Oh, yeah. I'll tell you about ---

PAULINE: This is the easiest interview I've done in a long time.

VELFA: I'll tell you about another trip I made. Let me see, what year was that, it must have been about 1907, when my grandparents, Jefferson and Emily Byerley they came up here in the summer. And their daughter, Etta Stubblefield, her husband contracted hay for Bill Hanley every year. So he'd bring his boys up here, they were, oh I guess in their late teens, must have been at that time. Big husky boys. He'd bring them up here and they'd work in the hay fields. They'd make a \$1 a day, and that was good wages, you know. And they'd work here in the hay field, and then they'd have enough money for them to go to school.

So this year they wanted to take brother and I back with them. And Mama said, Mama agreed, she said --- she hadn't been very well, and said she would appreciate them taking the responsibility for a while. So we left here in the late fall. And then there was a man with them that came up to work in the hay field, name of Adrian Ford, he run a skating rink in Newport.

So Grandma and Granddad had a little buggy that they drove. Then they had the hack, a two-

seated hack, then a two-horse wagon, a small wagon. There was my Uncle Dell, and Uncle Loren, Aunt Clara, my brother, Mr. Ford, Grandma and Granddad. Then Granddad had bought a little mouse colored Indian pony up here that he wanted to take back and sell to someone there. And by the time we got up to Sagehen, that Indian pony had broken all the extra ropes that we had. He wouldn't lead. So, Aunt Clara and brother took turnabouts riding that pony all the way to Newport, two weeks trip.

And Granddad did all the cooking for all that crew in two Dutch ovens. And I remember he had a sack of flour, and he'd make a nest in this flour, and make the bread. But he did all the cooking. And I remember he carried the dishrag in his hip pocket. And I'll never forget, they were so happy to take us children along. And when they got in sight of the ocean, they stopped where we could get our first view of the ocean. And we lived there with them for a year. I thought it was the most wonderful time I've ever known in my lifetime. And it seemed as though I learned more being in a new place.

And the Byerley family was kind of a center of entertainment. They all sang, they had wonderful voices. And they had parties, and we went to different parties. There would be Uncle Dell and Aunt Clara, and Uncle Loren, brother and I would all go to these parties. And those times, we'd just play old-fashioned games, you know. And let's see, that was our entertainment. But them being, doing so much singing, I learned, we learned a lot of songs. I was the only one in the family that couldn't sing. My brother had a wonderful voice. And I can remember my Grandma when she was up in her 70's she could just sing that high soprano without a quiver. But that was a wonderful experience for us on that trip.

And I remember when we stopped at Fish Lake up in the Cascade Mountains; they had sheds for the travelers to stop in. And that morning, 2 o'clock in the morning, Granddad woke us all up. He said, "Everybody up, no breakfast," he said, "it is snowing and we've got to hurry to get over this seven mile mountain or we'll have to go back to Burns." So before we got over that mountain the

snow was so deep, drifted in places, that those three, the three men, the younger men would get out and throw their bodies in the snow in front of the horses so the horses could make it. And we left at 2 o'clock in the morning, and we never got over that mountain until, to camp, until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

And on top of that mountain we met a man and his wife in a little spring wagon, and four children. They had just turned their wagon over. And Granddad just pleaded with them to go back. "You'll never make it," he says. But evidently they made it. The man said they had to go, they made it.

And at this stop over at Fish Lake, Reuben Claypool [uncle], and Susan Claypool, Belle Altnow's mother and dad, run that station. They run that station there at Fish Lake. Afterwards, of course I never knew who they were then, of course. My grandparents knew them real well. But I later met them over to Drewsey. But I'll never forget that trip, I'll tell you.

PAULINE: Oh, that would be really something. It's bad enough to go over in car when it is really snowing. It can be really bad. Well now is Agness Stallard your sister-in-law?

VELFA: She is my sister-in-law, uh huh. She's going to Boston on the same plane that we go on ... and I. And she's coming back with us. I had to send a telegram to the travel agency when they told me that I was up for Queen Mother. I had to send a telegram to see if I could get on an earlier flight. And they said, well on a special flight it cost me \$187. But they would send me back on the first plane out of Boston on the 8th. So that will get in there the evening of the 8th, at 8:10. And then we'll have to have a plane there waiting to bring us back in a hurry, get here the morning of the 9th.

PAULINE: I hope your connections are all --- Oh, you'll make it fine.

VELFA: We'll make it.

PAULINE: That time of year you won't run into any weather problems or anything.

VELFA: Oh yes.

PAULINE: Well that's quite an experience to get to go to Boston. Have you ever been back East?

VELFA: Oh, I've never even, I've never even seen a jet plane, little own ride in one.

PAULINE: Oh, this is going to be wonderful.

VELFA: So this is going to be an experience.

PAULINE: Oh, it really will.

VELFA: Well we had our plane fare all paid for, and then they wrote us another letter, and they said, well that's the second flight plane. They couldn't get enough to fill it, so they got a smaller plane. But Carroll Bennett told us that smaller plane is an enormous plane.

PAULINE: Yeah.

VELFA: And so they wrote and said it will cost \$40 more. And if you don't want to pay this, why we'll cancel your flight. I wrote back and said, here is your \$40. I've waited forty years for this trip, and I'm not going to turn it down.

PAULINE: Oh, you'll like it. I've never flown in a big plane, but I know my husband has. And his Uncle Harry lives in Des Moines, Iowa, and he's been flying all over the --- he has a daughter in Minnesota, and two daughters in California, and he's been flying between Des Moines, and Minnesota, and California, and he has flew up here in a light plane. He'd just rather fly than go any other way. And he gets on a plane in Des Moines and is in Boise in two hours, you know.

VELFA: The only time I'd ever flow on a plane, oh a number of years ago, it was during the time I worked at the mill I took time off and flew down to Medford and brought my mother back on a plane, one of the little planes that used to fly from here. But I've ridden on smaller planes since. I fly every time I get a chance.

PAULINE: Well I think I --- I know I like to go up in a light plane, that's all I've ever been up in. They say that on a jet it's just like sitting in your living room. You don't even know that you're up, hardly. Well I sure appreciate your taking time; I know you're terribly busy.

-pb-

b1